

NR Accepted  
8/22/75

NR Individual 8/22/75

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston



4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE  
USGS Quadrant \_\_\_\_\_

MHC Photo no. \_\_\_\_\_

In Area no.

K

Form no.

440

1. Town Lexington

Address 33 Forest Street

Name Hancock School

Present use school

Present owner Town of Lexington

3. Description:

Date 1891

Source plaque on building

Style Romanesque Revival

Architect Hartwell and Richardson

Exterior wall fabric red brick/sandstone  
and copper trim

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features porte-cochere, original  
window sash, gray slate roof, dormers,  
brick bond patterns, turrets, etc.

Altered \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size:

One acre or less \_\_\_\_\_ Over one acre X  
357' on Forest St.  
Approximate frontage 685' on Clark St.

Approximate distance of building from street

75 feet

6. Recorded by John Herzan  
for Committee For The  
Organization Preservation of The Hancock  
School

Date 25/January/1975

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Town of Lexington

Original use school

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates \_\_\_\_\_

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	<u>X</u>	Religion	_____
Architectural	<u>X</u>	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	_____				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

The Hancock School was designed in 1890 by the prominent Boston architectural firm of Hartwell and Richardson, 19th century specialists in school architecture whose work is represented in many suburbs around Boston. The Hancock School is among the firm's best preserved and more imaginative interpretations of the Romanesque Revival which Henry H. Richardson introduced to Boston and vicinity. In Lexington the Hancock School is important as the only known work by Hartwell and Richardson and as one of the best examples of Romanesque public architecture.

In addition, the building is Lexington's oldest extant school-house in continuous operation since its opening in 1891. The Hancock School is very well remembered among its alumni and continues to serve the school children of Lexington by providing a fascinating architectural environment for playing and learning.

A recent architectural study commissioned by the Town of Lexington has indicated that the five oldest schools in operation should be phased out of existence and replaced. While demolition of the Hancock School is not yet certain, the likelihood of this happening is very real. In response to this threat a local citizens group has formed to save the school from this unworthy fate.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Report of the Committee Appointed To Consider the Subject Of Building  
A NEW School-House For The Hancock School, Lexington, Mass.

Vogel, Susan, "Hartwell and Richardson: An Introduction To Their Work,"  
J.S.A.H. (May, 1973).